THE STATE MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION OF ARMENIAN SSR

YEREVAN

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OF THE ARMENIAN SSR

THE GUIDE BOOK

YEREVAN 1968

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In accordance with the Decree of the SNC of the Armenian SSR the Museum of the Revolution was established in 1921 in Armenia. Its new exposition opened in November 1960.

The funds of the Museum count over twenty-five thousand documents, photographs, personal belongings, specimens of arms etc. More than four thousand displays are placed in the halls and almost the half of them refers to the Soviet period.

The history of the revolutionary struggle of the Armenian people with the Communist Party ahead, beginning from the first steps of working movement and spreading marxism ideas into Armenia is thoroughly reflected in the exposition of the Museum.

The last halls materials speak of the construction of Socialism in the republic and of the struggle for creation the material-technical basis of Communism.

HALL I

The exposition of the Museum opens with the section devoted to the founders of the scientific Communism, K. Marx and F. Engels.

Here are documents and photos connected with the life and activities of Marx and Engels and their works in various lan-

guages. The first edition of «The Communist Manifesto» translated by S. G. Shahumian and M. Manutcharian and published in Geneva in 1904 is of a special interest.

The greater part of the Hall I exposition is occupied by the materials concerning the formation of the working class and the spreading of capitalist interrelations in Transcaucasia and Armenia.

Armenia, rich in copper, cotton and spirits, had turned into a raw materials appendage for the developing industry of Russia.

«In such a way Russian capitalism induced the Caucasus into the international merchandised circulation, ingnored its local peculiarities — a remnant of the old patriarchal restriction — created a market for its industry». (Lenin, Complete Collection, vol. 3, p. 594).

Visitors take their stand in amazement at the displays witnessing of heavy labour conditions, brutal exploitation of workers, of ravage and hopeless poverty among peasantry.

A special place is allotted to the «St. Petersburg League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class» founded by V. I. Lenin. For the first time «The League of Struggle» initiated the connection of socialism with working movement in Russia.

In the years of 90th (19th century) the first Armenian Marxist-Leninists actively participated in the Marxist circles of Russia. They were: I. Lalayants, B. Cnuniants, A. Zurabian, V. Vartanian.

At the same time, that period could be characterized by penetration of the Marxist ideas into Transcaucasia. Various displays tell about the functioning of the Marxist circles in Transcaucasia, about the first revolutionary steps among the working mass there.

The first Marxist group in Armenia came into being in Djalal-Oghli (present — Stepanavan) in 1899. Its foundation was

suggested by the outstanding revoliutionary, S. Shahumian. In the illuminated niche there is the model of the house in Tiflis where S. Shahumian lived, his personal belongings, photographs and other displays.

The marked section is one devoted to the All-Russia political newspaper «Iskra». Its only organizer, the ideological and political leader was Lenin. The agents of «Iskra» served the only link to set contacts between Lenin and many illegal revolutionary organizations in Russia. The agents carried on selfless work on popularizing the newspaper and establishment of illegal communist organizations. Out of «iskraists» there was born a brilliant pleiad of the future outstanding statesmen of the Communist Party and the Soviet State. They were N. K. Krupskaya, Y. M. Sverdlov, M. Tskhakaya, B. Cnuniants, S. G. Shahumian, H. D. Stasova, J. V. Stalin.

A special attention was paid by «Iskra» to the revolutionary movement in Transcaucasia. More than 70 articles reflecting events in Transcaucasia were published in «Iskra». In the centre of the Hall there is the model of the illegal printing-house «NINA» of the Party Committee in Baku, where seperate issues of «Iskra» were printed and then spread all over Transcaucasia and Russia.

In 1902 in Tiflis a group of armenian iskraists founded «The League of Armenian Social-Democrats». «The League» arranged the publication of the newspaper «Proletariat»— the first pericdical of Leninist-Iskraist trend in Armenian. In its first issue there was published «The Manifesto of the League of Armenian Social-Democrats», highly praised by Lenin. Having learned the Russian duplicate of the «Proletariat» V. Lenin published an article in the 33d issue of «Iskra», «About the Manifesto of the League of Armenian Social-Democrats», which said: «We cordially welcome the Manifesto of the League of Armienan Social-Democrats and especially its wonderful attempt to give posi-

tive solvation to the national problem» (Lenin, Complete Collection, vol. 7, p. 104).

There on the stand photographs and personal belongings of the members of the League are exhibited. They belong to S. Shahumian, B. Cnuniants, A. Zurabian, A. Khumarian, S. Khanoyan, R. Dashtoyan, D. Shahverdian. Here is the first issue of the «Proletariat», V. Lenin's article and a lot of other articles.

The exposition of the Hall I is completed with the materials referring to the activities of the Caucasian League Committee of R. S. D. L. P., elected at the first Congress of Caucasian organizations of R. S. D. L. P. in 1903.

HALL II

The exposition of this Hall opens with the materials telling us about the Second Congress of RSDLP(B), wihch laid the foundation of the Bolshevist Party. Different displays tell about Lenin's leading role on creation a new type of working class party. Among the materials and the documents of the Second Congress of RSDLP Lenin's manuscript of the speech on discussian of the Party Rules is exhibited. There is also the copy print of the first edition of Lenin's work «One Step Forward, Two Steps Back», published in Geneva, photographs of the participants of the Congress.

The events of January 9, 1905 started the first bourgeois — democratic revolution in Russia. The execution of the peaceful demonstration of the workers, their wives and children committed by the tsarist government on January 9th is one of the most disgraceful pages of the Russian History.

The rising tide of discontent in connection with Bloody Sunday overwhelmed the country. Documental photos, newspapers, leaflets, paintings tell about the stormy events in Transcaucasia

in 1905, about the revolutianary actions of the workers in Baku, Tiflis, Alexandropol, Alaverdi, Batumi.

During the years of the Russian revolution the Bolshevist organizations in Erivan, Alexandropol, Chars, Alaverdi, Sarighamish came into existance. Among the exhibited materials there are photographs of the leaders of Erivan organization: of G. Sokolovski, A. Malkhasian, M. Mirakian, A. Shushanian, L. Ter-Hovsepian, the painter G. Rukhikian's graphic work «S. Shahumian at the Conference of the Erivan Bolshevist Organization» and other displays.

In the centre of the Hall is the model of the illegal Havlabar printing-house belonging to the Caucase Union Committee. The printing-house was founded in Tiflis in 1903 with the participation of legendary Kamo (S. Ter-Petrosian) and M. Bochoridzè. During the revolutionary years here were printed Lenin's works, hundreds of booklets, leaflets in Russian, Armenian and Georgian.

The armed revolt in Moscow in December, 1905, happened to be the highest upsurge of the Revolution 1905-1907. Just after Moscow, revolts burst out in other regions of the country and in Transcaucasia. First were the workers of Tiflis stepped forward into the battle with the tsarist army on December, 10. Armed conflicts took place also in Sanahin, Alexandropol, Ghars. The control on the Caucase railway traffic passed into the hands of the strike committee.

During the revolutionary years the role of Armenian Bolshevist press highly increased. Thanks to the efforts of S. Shahumian S. Spandarian, S. Kasian, the newspapers «Banvory Dzaine» (A. Worker's Voice), «Caitse» (A Spark), «Nor Khosk» (A New Word), «Orèr» (Days), «The Facts» in Russian were published in Baku, Tiflis, Erivan, the copies of which are exposed.

In the summer and the autumn of 1906, in the working centres of Armenia a number of strikes broke out. The most impressive one was the August strike of the miners in Alaverdi, where

more than four thousand people took part. To this theme the painter. S. Galstian has devoted his canvas: «The August Strike of the Miners in Alaverdi».

In spite of the defeat of the revolution of 1905-1907, a strong blow shuddered the tsarism.

The revolution shook the tsarism to its foundation. It confirmed that the centre of the World revolutionary movement was replaced from Europe to Russia.

HALL III

The exposition of this Hall reflects Russia and Transcaucasia during the years of Stolypin Reaction, the fresh revolutionary upsurge and the First World War. Here are photos, pictures, sculptures, reflecting the violence of the police, persecution of revolutionaries, thrown into prisons and exiled, the mass execution of the workers in the Lena gold-fields in 1912.

Visitors learn the materials about the activities of the Bolshevist Party during the years of the reaction. In details there is cast a light upon the activities of bolsheviks in the Caucase, who realized Lenin principles and tactics conformably to the new conditions.

The chess, Lenin used to play in Paris, in 1908-1910, is of a particular interest.

A special stand is devoted to the oldest representative of Lenin Guard, a flaming revolutionary B. Cnuniants. Here are represented Cnuniants' photographs, a certificate of a police department of his revolutionary activities, his letter to the Baku Committee on the results of the Second Congress of Party and so on.

Visitors in amazement look at the displays speaking of life and activities of legendary Kamo. Here are brought together his personal and Party-membership cards, a letter addressed to Lenin and his personal belongings. Among the displays distinguishable one is the mandate given to Kamo by Lenin: «Its bearer, comrade K. Petrov — the owner of a passing card No. 488 (of October 1, 1919) to the house of C. E. C., working in one of its departments is personally known to me. I'd like all the Soviet institutions, military and other services to render comrade K. Petrov every trust and all-way assistance». The exposed materials tell about the Sixth All-Russia Conference of the R. S. D. L. P.(B), that took place in Prague and completed formation of a new type marxist party in Russia. Here are displayed photographs of the members of the Central Committee, V. I. Lenin, G. K. Ordjonikidze, S. S. Spandarian, the candidates — members of the Central Committee S. G. Shahumian, M. I. Kalinin and others. One can see here the picture of the painter Avakian «V. I. Lenin and S. S. Spandarian in Prague», photographs of members of the editorial staff and active associators of the Bolshevist newspaper «Pravda», which began to be published on April 22 (May 5) 1912, photographs of Armenian Bolsheviks associated in «Pravda» S. Shahumian, S. Hovsepian, B. Borian, A. Mravian, A. Shahsuvarian and others, also the issue of the Armenian newspaper «Mer Khosk» (Our word), printed after «Pravda»'s pattern.

There are many displays in connection with the First World War, Lenin's theses on war, a manifesto of the C. C. RSDLP(B) «The War and the Russian Social-Democrats». The First World War started by Germany in summer 1914 was carried on for the redivision of the world and spheres of influence. It bred poverty and misery to people. The fate of the Armenian people turned to be the most tragic. The Ottomans Government having entered the First World War as an ally of the Austro-German bloc decided to put an end to the Armenian problem, taking advantage of war situation.

And consequently there started massacre and expulsion of Armenians out of their land. About two million Armienans were massacred.

There on the wall is a picture of the painter A. Melkonian, telling about the hard life conditions of Armenian peasantry.

On a seperate stand there is an issue of the Armenian newspaper «Paikar» (Struggle), published in Tiflis, 1915, where associated the Bolsheviks S. Shahumian, S. Khanoyan, S. Casian, A. Mikoyan, A. Camari and others. They were explaining to the masses the imperialist way of leading war standing for Lenin's these on war, peace and Revolution.

During the years of the First World War in several regions of Armenia — Ghars, Etchmiadzin, Alexandropol, Sarikamish, Zangezur and other places new Bolshevist organizations came to existence.

The department telling about the last years of S. Spandarian's life completes the exposition of this Hall.

HALL IV

Just in front of the exit of this Hall from where starts the telling about the preparation for the Great October Socialist Revolution and its victory is a coloured painting «The Great October», a work of the painter R. Gargaloyan.

The materials of the first stands direct us to a real imagination of the victory of the February bourgeois — democratic revolution in 1917. Right here are concentrated a lot of materials about the most important events in Armenia influenced by the February Revolution, about the mass revolutionary actions against the counter-revolution politics of the Provisional Government and its local administrations.

Up to October 1917, the Bolshevist Party with Lenin ahead carries out hard work. It predominates in the Soviets, makes millions of peasants sympathize with the socialist revolution, diverting them from the petty-bourgeois parties of socialist-revolutionaries and mensheviks, carries on hard work among soldiers, exposes the anti-national politics of the bourgeois Provisional Government.

The Provisional Government and the bourgeois press set a situation of incredible persecution of Lenin and Bolshevist Party. On July 5, the editorial board office of the «Pravda» was damaged. On July 7 the Provisional Government requested Lenin's arrest.

Under such conditions the Party had changed its tactics. It went underground, secured Lenin's life and began its preparations for the Armed revolt. In display there are the materials of the Party Sixth Congress which aimed the Party at the Armed Revolt.

The resolutions of the Sixth Congress of the Party put new urgent tasks before the Bolshevist organizations in Transcaucasia. In connection with this the first regional congress of the Caucase organizations of RSDLP(B) was called for in Tiflis on October 2-7, 1917.

S. Shahumian made a report on current events. He proved the objective preconditions to be matured for the socialist revolution and for realizitation the Central Committee's resolution on the revolt in Transcaucasia. Photographs of the delegates of the Congress, resolutions on urgent problems of the agenda, A. Mikoyan's report on the activities of the Bolshevist organizations in Armenia are represented on the stands.

Immediately after the Congress S. Shahumian arrived at Alexandropol where he took a floor at a crowded meeting of the town workers and the soldiers of the local garrison.

One can see photographs of the Bolshevist leaders of Alexandropol, B. Gharibdjanian, P. Arveladze, B. Tarakhchian, G. Atarbekian, N. Lejzava, B. Borian, of the rising influence of Bolsheviks in Alexandropol one can judge by Shahumian's telegram to the Central Organ of the Party «Worker's Way», where it was said that the garrison of the town counting twenty thousand soldiers entirely deserted to Bolsheviks.

Visitors observe with a great interest the materials devoted to the Armed Revolt on October 25, 1917, that was over by the capture of the Winter Palace and declaration of the Soviet Power.

In the show-cases there are represented personal belongings, documents and photographs of the very participants of the October Revolution, the first Soviet Decrees on Peace and on Land, the resolution about formation of the Soviet Government — C. P. C. and also the Decree on Turkish Armenia signed by Lenin.

The working people of Transcaucasia greeted the victory of the October Revolution. The revolutionary proletariat of Baku was the first to raise the banner of the Soviet Power. The Soviet Power was proclaimed here on October 31, 1917.

Having discussed a critical situation in the Caucase in December 1917, the C. P. C. appointed S. Shahumian a Temporal Extraordinary Commissar on Caucase affairs. Under his guidance the revolutionary forces of the region united more closely and stood against the home and foreign reaction.

On April 25, 1918, in Baku C. P. C. was formed with S. Shahumian ahead. Here are photographs of the members of the Baku C. P. C. S. Shahumian, P. Djaparidze, M. Azizbekov, I. Fioletov and the rests. There are also the Decrees of the C. P. C., Lenin's letters to Shahumian, documents and arms of participants of the revolutionary battles in Baku, a picture of Shahumian-engraved on a rice seed.

The establishment of the Soviet Power in Russia got a cool welcome by the capitalists and the landlords inside the country and the ruling classes of capitalist world on the whole. Not only the white guards but foreign interventionists as well rose against the young Soviet Republic. There came the ordeals of the civil war and intervention that the next department of the museum tells us about.

Here one can see photographs of outstanding statesmen and military leaders M. Frunzè, V. Kujbishev, A. Miasnikian, the most important documents of the Party and order of the General Headquarters of the Red Army, proclamations and placards.

Documents, characterizing the military activities of the great Armenian generals and commissars in the Red Army, draw one's attention. They are: G. Voskanian, O. Sahakian, G. Khakhanian, H. Bzhshkian (Gaie), A. Vermishev.

HALL V

By the end of 1919 the economical and political conditions of Armenia changed for the worse. The anti-national politics of the Dashnaks called forth mass dissatisfaction. The situation formed in the country required for unification of the Bolshevist organizations.

On January 18-19, 1920 in Erivan the first illegal conference of the Bolshevist organizations of Armenia was held, at which the Armenian Committee of RCP(B) — Armencom was elected. The only way out of this hard situation for the Armenian people the conference saw in capturing of power by means of armed revolt. The conference resolutions and photographs of the members of the Armencom — S. Casian, A. Mravian, D. Shahverdian, S. Alaverdian, D. Ter-Simonian, G. Ghukasian, A. Nuridjanian, S. Khanoyan, S. Martikian, H. Costanian — are represented at the exposition.

The news about the establishment of the Sovief Power in Azerbaijan caused a new range of revolutionary movement in Armenia.

The armoured train «Vartan Zoravar» was the first in Alexandropol to rise the banner of revolt thus became the virtual headquarter of the revolt. On May 10, 1920, the armed revolt broke out in Alexandropol. The Military Revolutionary Committee proclaimed the overthrow of the Dashnaks and the establishment of the Soviet Power. Just after Alexandropol there rose the working people of Ghars, Sarighamish, Caftarlu, Nor-Ba-

yazet, Shamshadin and Ichevan. In the second half of May the flame of the revolt spread over Zangezur.

The whole exposition of this Hall is sated with documental photographs, newspapers, pictures, personal belongings and arms. Here are also the model of the armoured-train «Vardan Zoravar» and the banner of the rebels of Shamshadin.

But the Dashnaks supported by foreign imperialists stiffled the revolt brutally. Those days S. Alaverdian, S. Musaelian, B. Gharibganian, Gh. Ghukasian, E. Sevian, O. Sarukhanian, D. Panian, S. Mkrtumian, B. Alekseev, B. Badikian were shot.

In spite of the defeat the May revolt had a great meaning in the further struggle of workers and peasants of Armenia for the Soviet Power. It served as a lesson of civil war and at the same time shook to its foundation the anti-national regime of the Dashnaks.

A special section of the Hall is allotted to the history of the origin and formation of the Communist Party of Armenia. Here are photographs of the members of the Central Committee of C. P. of Armenia: A. Khandjian, A. Nuridjanian, Sh. Amirkhanian, I. Dovlatian, A. Costanian and others.

In the Autumn a state of Armenia became crusial. The Turks attack was a very malice for the annihilation of the Armenian people. Armenia was at the edge of its destruction. On November 29, 1920 the working people of the Northern regions of Armenia — Carvansarah, Dilidjan — under the leadership of the Communist Party rose the banner of the revolt again. The Military Revolutionary Committee consisted of S. Casian, A. Nuridjanian, A. Beckzadian, I. Dovlatian, A. Mravian, S. Ter-Gabrielian proclaimed Armenia to be a Soviet Socialist Republic. In the telephone message from the 2nd of December 1920 on Casian's name V. I. Lenin wrote: «Welcome in you person the work-loving Republic of Soviet Armenia having been set free from imperialist oppression» (Lenin, Complete Collection, vol. 42, p. 54).

At the beginning of December 1920 the rebels by the help of the XI Red Army set Erivan free. The working people of the capital greeted the messengers of the great Russian people. To this theme A. Mirzoyan's diorama «The Red Army Entering Erivan» is devoted. In a section devoted to the XI Red Army visitors can see photographs of G. Ordjonikidze, S. Kirov, A. Mikoyan, of the commander-in-chief of the Army A. Geckker, the commander of the 20th division M. Velikanov, of commissars B. Mikhailov, K. Ratnek and others.

From the first days of the establishment of the Soviet Power all the measures were taken to form a new state apparatus, to put an end to starvation and economic dislocation, to restore the national economy. In this section there are represented Decrees of the Revolutionary Committee, the Appeal of the C. C, of the Communist Party to the communist organizations in connection with the first arrangements on the restoration of the national economy, the materials about the communist subbotniks in Erivan, Nor-Bayazet, Carakilisa, Dilidjan, specimens of the first monetary units of the Soviet Russia and the Soviet Armenia.

HALL VI

The subjects of this Hall reflect the period of the civil war in Armenia. By the beginning of 1921 the greater part of the Republic was in the hands of the Georgian Mensheviks, the Dashnaks and Turkish invaders.

Following directions of the Caucasian Bureau of the RCP(B) the Communist Parties of Armenia and Georgia were preparing for the armed revolt in the neutral area of Lori, occupied by the Mensheviks.

In a special section of the exposition there is represented a line of documents, concerning the preparations for the revolt:

the resolutions of the Conference of the Communist organizations in Lori, which took place in Carakilisa in January 1921 with participation of the representatives of the neutral area.

The armed revolt broke out on the eve of February 12. To help the rebels there came the units of the XI Red Army and the partisan troops from Carakilisa and Barana. On February 13 the revolt was victoriously completed.

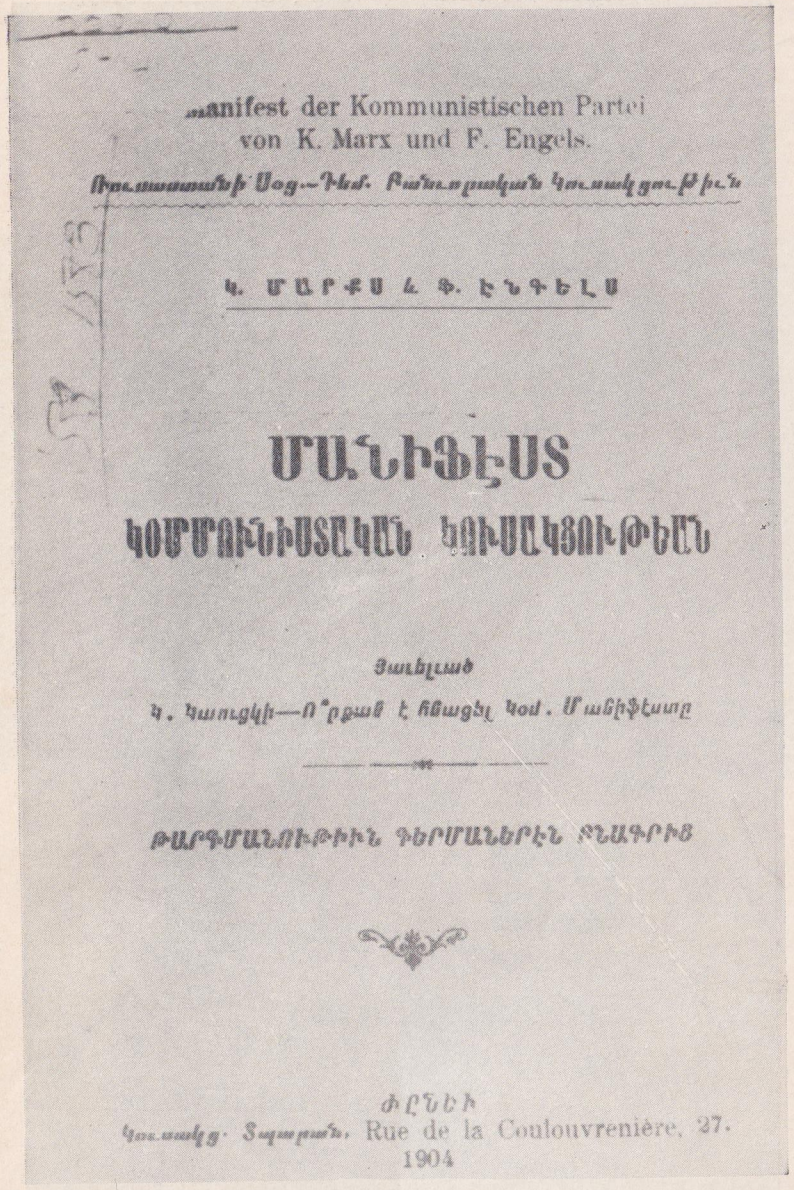
Of a great interest are the materials, concerning the revolt, photographs of the revolt leaders and other documents.

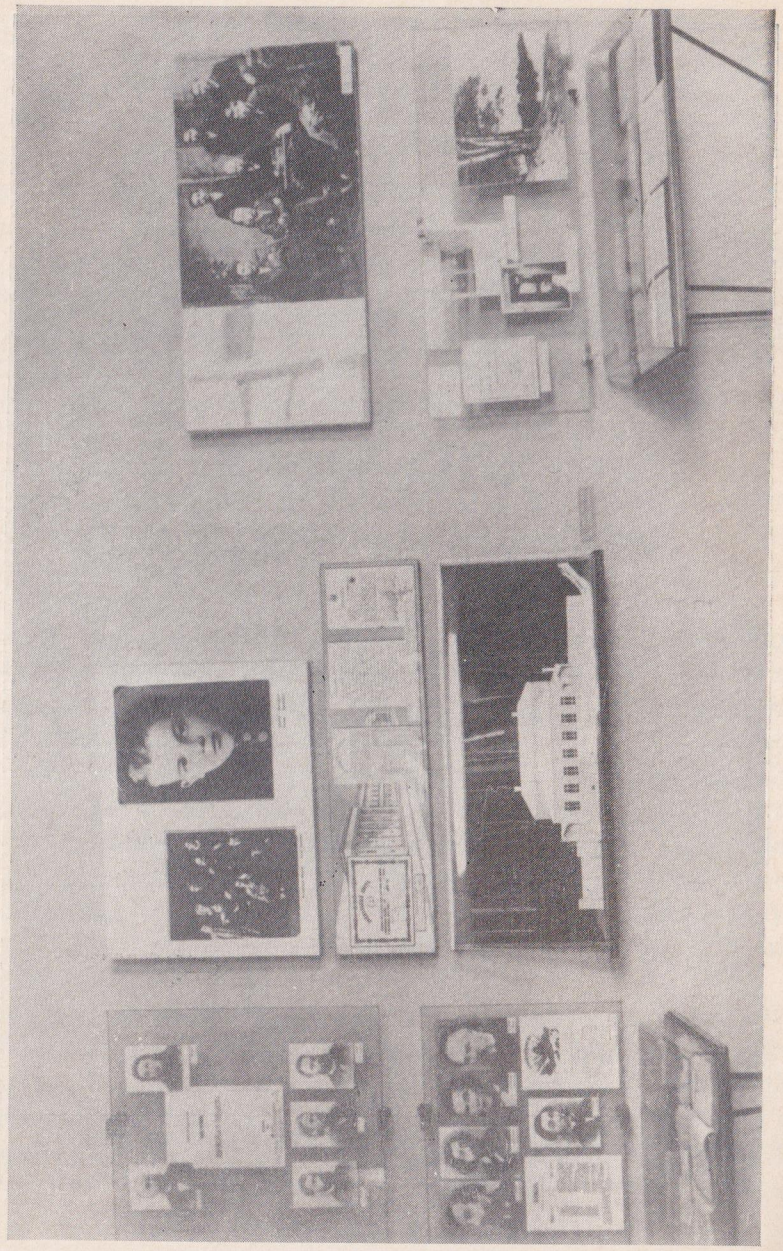
There is a special stand telling about establishment of the Soviet Power in Georgia on February 23, 1921.

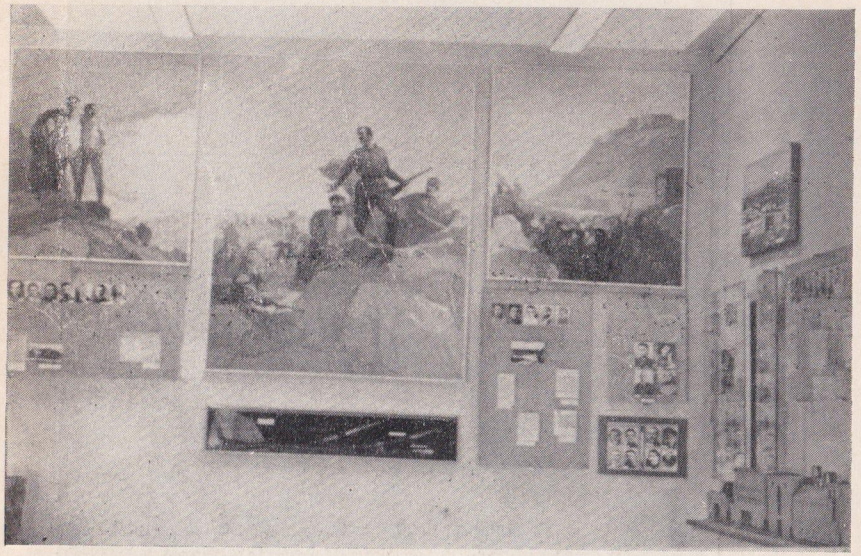
On February 13, 1921 the adventure of the Dashnaks' gangs against the Soviet Power began. Because of the temporary force superiority the Dashnaks occupied Erivan but they failed to throw down the Soviet Power in Armenia. In Dilidjan under the presidence over of G. Atarbekian the Military Revolutionary Committee was founded on February 26, which organized crushing of the Dashnaks.

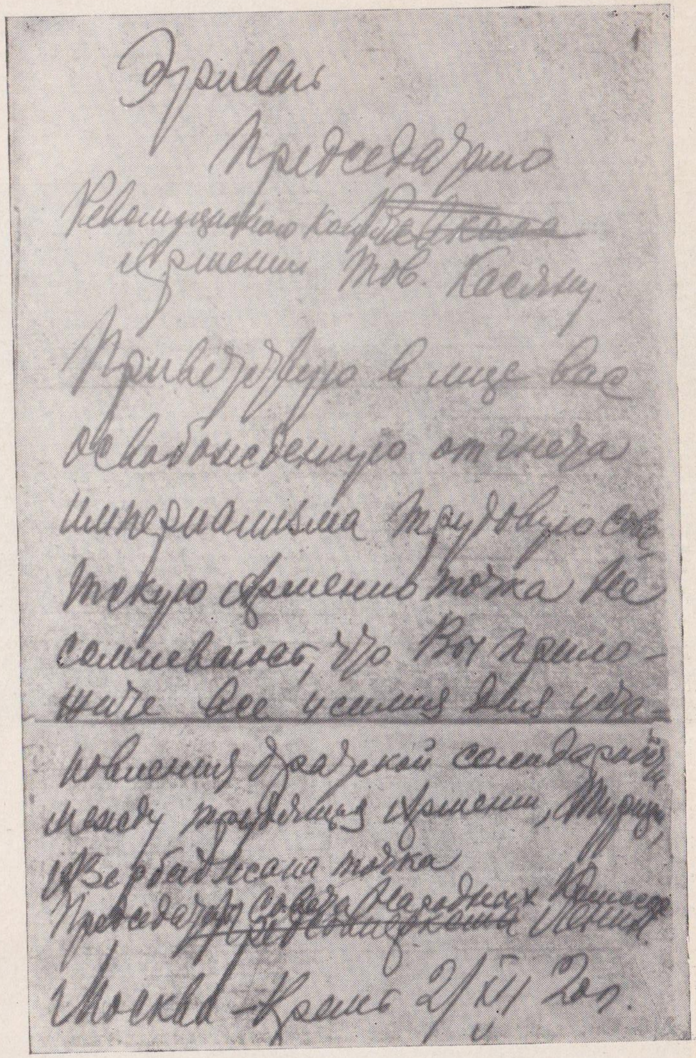
The Red Army of the Soviet Armenia grew and became tempered in the battles against the Dashnaks. One can see photographs of the Commander-in-chief of the Red Army M. Molkachanov, the Commissar I. Sviridov, the commanders G. Evangulov, M. Velikanov, V. Melnikov, A. Baghdasarian and others and also photographs of the active participants of the crushing of the Dashnaks adventure G. Atarbekian, A. Khandjian, A. Caragiozian and others. Following Lenin's instructions G. Ordjonikidze helped much the detachments of the Red Army, the Revcom and the C. C. of the Communist Party of Armenia, which were surrounded by enemy in Ghamarlu.

The Russian pilots B. Cudrin and V. Melnikov delivered 47 kgm of gold to Ghamarlu on March 25, to buy food products in Iran. In the exposition are the pilots' photographs and the map of their flight. In the middle of March the detachments of the Red Army of the Soviet Armenia and the XI Army led by







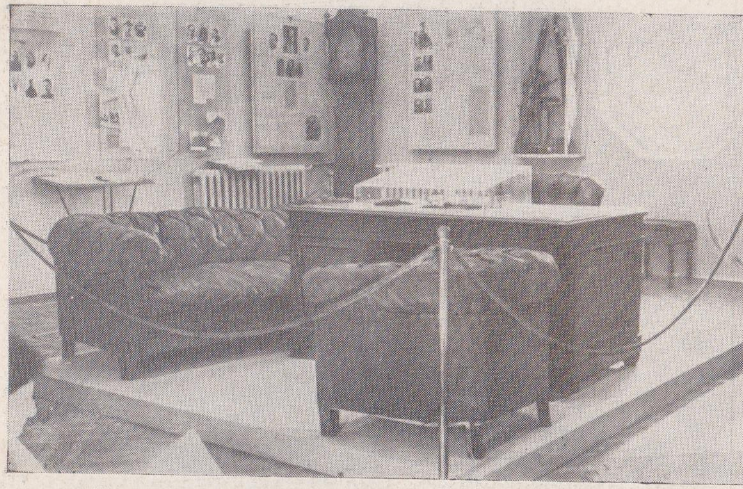


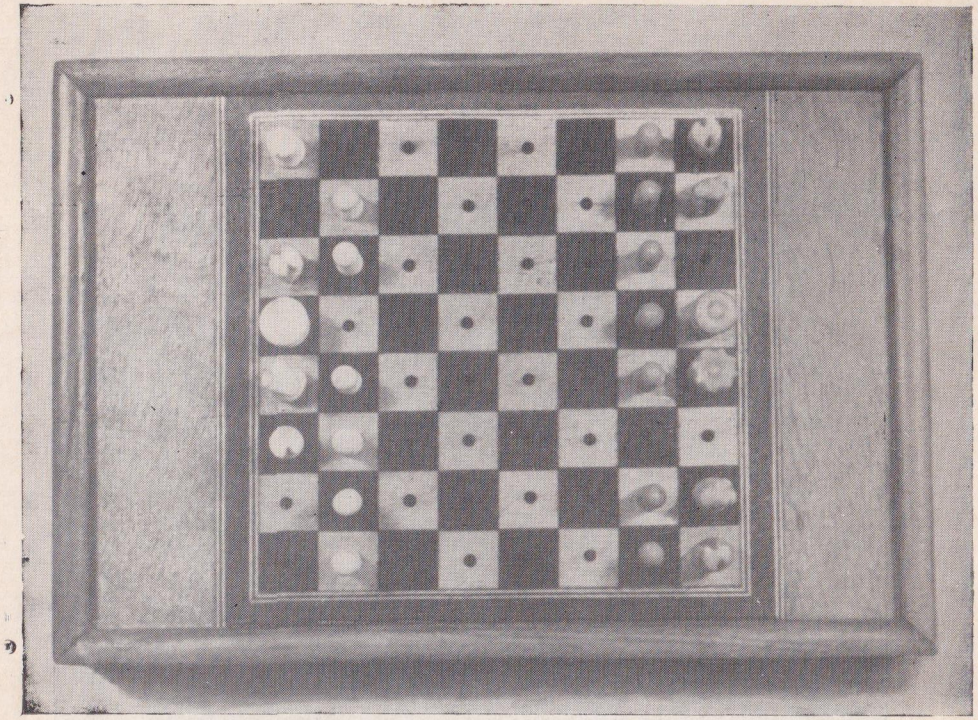
Эривань
Председателю
Революционного комитета
Армении тов. Касьяну

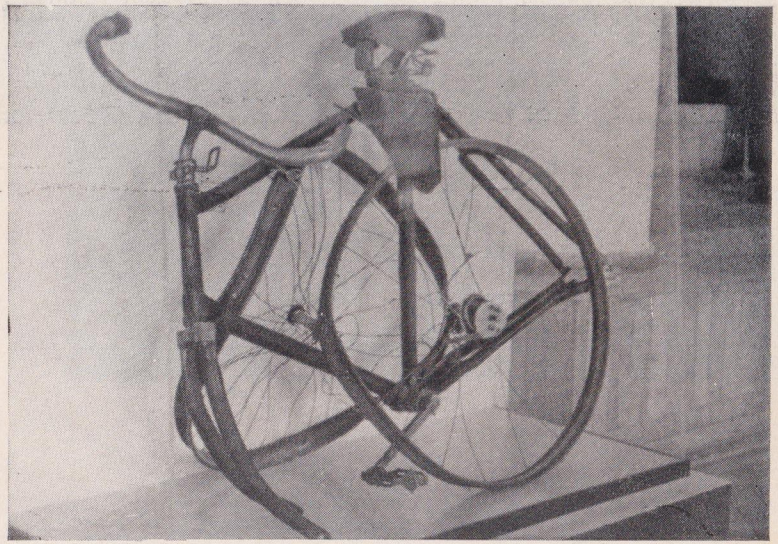
Приветствую в лице вас освобожденную от гнета империализма трудовую Советскую Армению. Не сомневаюсь, что Вы приложите все усилия для установления братской солидарности между трудящимися Армении, Турции, и Азербайджана тоже.

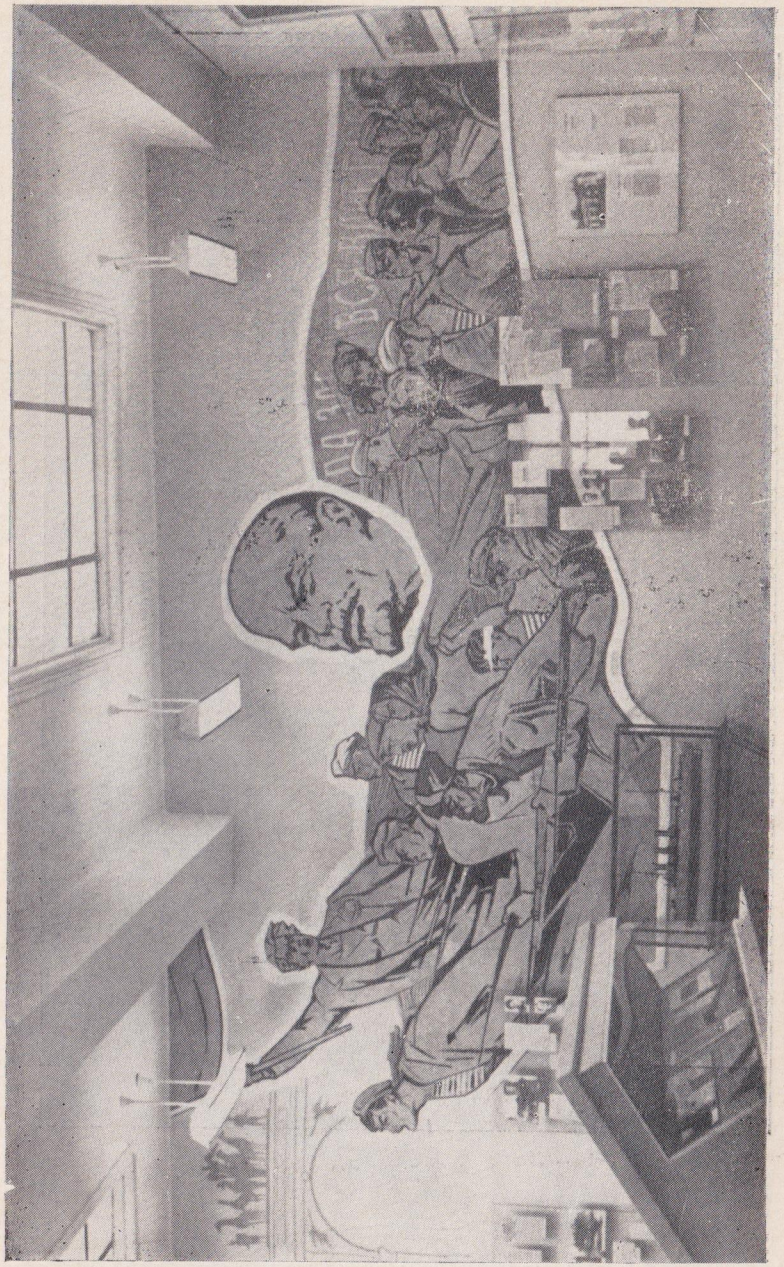
Председатель Совета Народных Комиссаров Ленин

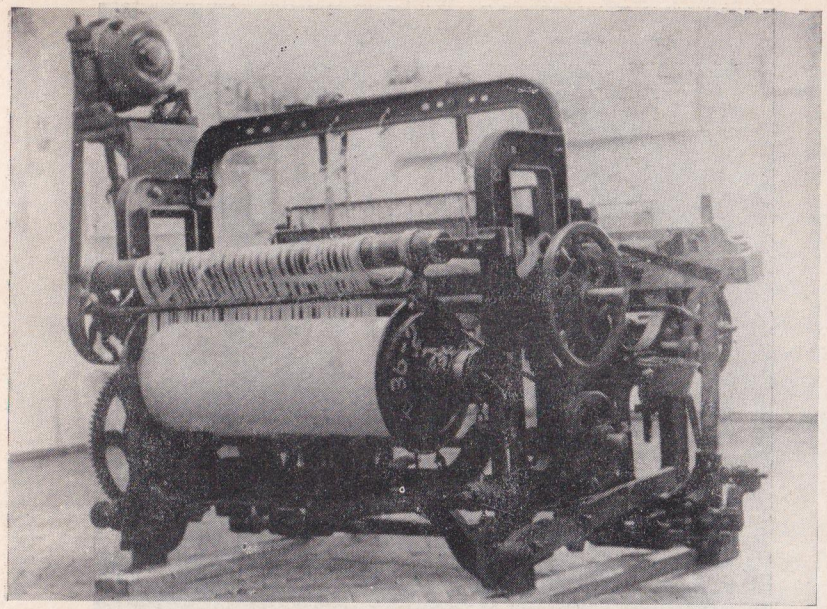
Москва — Кремль 2/XII 20 г.

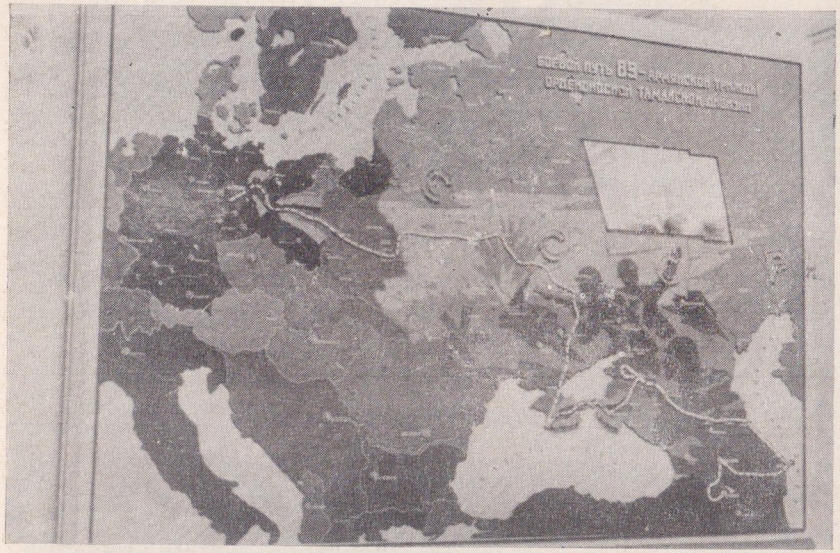


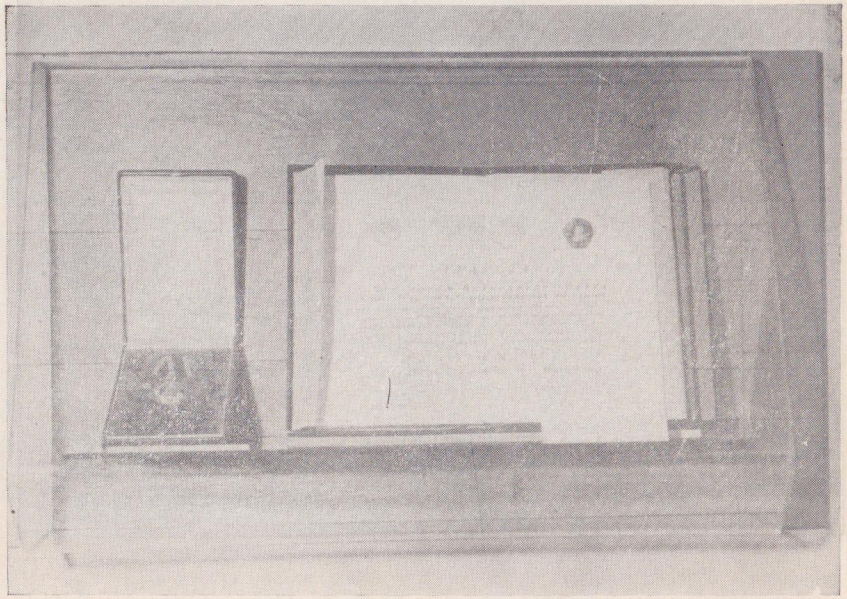












G. Atarbekian and M. Velikanov together with partisan troops began to attack and on April 2 set Yerevan free. By the 15th of April some more regions occupied by the Dashnaks were also set free. In this connection a number of documents and illustrations are exposed.

After crushing of the February adventure the remnants of the Dashnaks Mauserists having robbed the Armenian State Bank retreated up to Zangezur. While retreating they drove with them more than 200 arrested communists and fighters of the Red Army whom they dealt brutally on the way to Tatev by throwing them down off a high rock. Among the fallen ones there were the secretary of the C. C. of the Komsomol of Armenia A. Budaghian the commissar N. Oltetsian and others. Here is the painter E. Isabekian's painting «Tatev Tragedy».

In hard years of the Civil War the Soviet Russia rendered all possible aid to Armenia and a lot of documents prove it.

In May 1921, during the Civil War, an eminent member of the Communist Party and a great military specialist A. F. Miasnikian (Al. Martuni) arrived in Armenia. Just in May the first Soviet Government with A. Miasnikian ahead was formed in Armenia. In the exposition here are represented photographs of the members of the Government A. Miasnikian, S. Lukashin, A. Ioannisian, S. Hambartsumian, A. Bekzadian, A. Shahverdian, P. Makintsian, A. Carinian, A. Khachiev, A. Erzinkian, D. Ter-Simonian. A. Miasnikian's study is shown in this Hall.

To cease the bloodshed in Zangezur and to liquidate the last nest of counter-revolution the Soviet Government of Armenia began negotiations with the Dashnaks. But on June 15 the Dashnaks' gangs came upon the detachments of the Red Army in Daralagiaz and captured the district centre. At the call of the C. C. of the Communist Party of Armenia the units of Yerevan group of troops under the command of M. Velikanov began to attack for setting Zangezur free. The units of the Special Caucasian Army headed by Todorski joined them. Soon the Dashnaks were driven

out of Zangezur. The 13th of July 1921 is the date of the end of the Civil War and of the general formation of the Soviet Power in Armenia.

The period of reconstruction of the national economy and building of socializm began in Armenia.

Proceeding from the decision of the Tenth Congress of the RCP(B) on passing over to the new economic politics the Revolutionary Committee of Armenia published a Decree «About Food Tax». Together with this document there are exposed the materials of the Tenth Congress of the RCP(B). The centre of this Hall is occupied by Lenin's program letter «To the Communists of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Daghestan and Mountian Republic», where all the concrete ways of realizing the new economic politics in the Caucase and of strengthening friendship between these sister republics were planned.

Of a great importance in the life of the Republic was the First Congress of the Communist Party of Armenia, which opened in Yerevan on January 26, 1922. The Congress heard the political account of the C. C. of the Communist Party of Armenia, the co-report about the Party politics, the results of the Eleventh All-Russia Party Conference, the question of Soviet construction and about the Transcaucasian Federation. The Congress elected the leading organs of the Party and delegates to the First Congress of the Communist Parties of Transcaucasia. Here are photographs of the members of C. C. of the Communist Party of Armenia, the mandates of the delegates of the Congress and other materials.

On January 30, 1922 the First Congress of Soviets in Arme nia was open, which discussed the problems connected with the formation of the Transcaucasia Federation and development of the national economy. The Congress adopted the First Constitution of Armenia, elected the supreme organ of the State — the Central Executive Committee and formed a new government. S. Hambartsumian was elected as the chairman of the C. E. C.

The secretary of the Caucasian Bureau of the C. C. of the RCP(B) S. Ordjonikidze took an active part in the Congress work.

Visitors take particular interest in the First Constitution of the Soviet Armenia, in the resolutions adopted by the Congress.

The First Congress of the Communist organizations of Transcaucasia, that took place on February 18-22, 1922 in Tbilisi, welcomed the formation of the Transcaucasian Federation and that very idea was suggested by G. Ordjonikidze, A. Miasnikian and S. Kirov. On December 13, 1922 the First Congress of Soviets of Transcaucasia adopted a decision of the formation of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, elected the Transcaucasian Central Executive Committee and adopted the Constitution of the Transcaucasian Federation. It is also exposed on the stand with the other materials of the Congress of Soviets of Transcaucasia.

In December 1922, the First Congress of Soviets adopted the decision of formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Visitors may observe photographs of the members of Government of the U. S. S. R. with Lenin ahead, the Declaration about formation of the U. S. S. R., the Constitution of the U. S. S. R. and other materials.

HALL VII

At the end of the civil war the working people of Armenia under the leadership of the Communist Party set rehabilitating the peoples economy. Taking into account the local conditions of the Caucase V. I. Lenin advised communists to start rehabilitation firstly of agriculture. The Communist Party of Armenia mapped out measures for the reconstruction and expansion of the irrigation system. Here are photographs of the Shirak, Evdgilar and other canals. According to G. O. E. L. R. O. plan

they started building the Yerevan hydroelectric power station in 1923, and it was completely finished in 1926.

A specal stand is devoted to the history of the Mechanical plant of Yerevan, here in 1926 was started equipping of new shops. At present the plant is named after F. A. Dzerjinski and has become the biggest enterprise in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Government allocated big sum to rehabilitation of copper industry enterprises in Kafan and Alaverdi, and it is all witnessed by the Government resolutions, photographs and diplomas of distinguished miners.

The materials of the next section tell us about the history of the Komsomol in Armenia. One can see here photographs of the most active members of the Komsomol, the first komsomol-membership cards, newspapers of the youth organizations and so on. It is evident here the great role of the Komsomol in the cause of rehabilitation and development of the peoples economy in Armenia.

The death of V. I. Lenin was a terrible bereavelment suffered by the Communist Party, soviet people and all the progressive mankind.

In that connection the mourning meetings took place all over the country. Here are shown the document of renaming the town of Alexandropol in Leninakan and other materials connected with perpetuation the memory of V. I. Lenin.

In December, 1925 the Fourteenth Congress of the Party was held and laid down a program of industrialization of the country and concrete ways to its realization.

In 1929 the First Five-Year Plan of development of the peoples economy in Armenia was confirmed. During the five years (1928-1932) there were built in Armenia the Carbide plant — a pioneer in chemical industry and a number of other ones. In the museum one can watch a spinning machine of the Leninakan Textile factory presented by textile workers from the town of Vichuga, the province of Ivano-Voznesenskaya in 1922.

On decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia on the river Dzoraget was built the electric power station which was opened on November 15, 1932. On the stands there are materials telling of the station construction, photographs of the chief engineer I. Ter-Astavtsatrian, advanced workers, diplomas and so on.

On January 22-29, 1929, the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Armenia worked out the program of agriculture co-operation. In a section of collectivization are shown documents of the Congress, peasants' applications for joining a collective farm and other materials of collective farm movement. The next stand demonstrates documents on the establishment of MTS, photographs of organizers of the first Sardarabad MTS in the Republic. The exposition of the Hall VII is completed by materials telling of fulfilment of the Second Five-Year plan in the U. S. S. R. and Armenia ahead of time.

In the new Soviet Constitution, adopted in December, 1936 the root changes had places in all spheres of economic and social life of the country.

In accordance with the New Constitution of December 12, 1937, there were for the first time elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, passed on the basis of common, equal and right suffrage under the ballot.

A great deal of materials tell us about the success of Armenia made during the Second Five-Year plan in all spheres of national economy.

HALL VIII

The exposition of this Hall tells us about the success of the Soviet Armenia in the fields of national education, science, literature and art in 1921-1941.

On the first stand there are represented the Decrees of the

Revolutionary Committee of Armenia about the recognition of the Armenian language as the political and official language within the Republic, about the nationalization of cultural and educational institutions belonged to ecclesiastical establishments, the Declaration «Of the Abolition of Illeteracy Among the Railroad Workers». Of a great interest are photographs of pupils of grammar schools of Hoctemberian, Charbakh and Ghonakhran.

The Communist Party and the Government of Armenia took all the measures to widen the school-set and to qualificate teachers. The first secondary schools, workers' faculties, schools for peasantry were opened. There on the stand are represented the Decree of the C. C. of RCP(B) (1921) about all-round education — the documents telling about the growth of the national education in the Republic. Here are photographs, personal belongings of the most popular teachers of the Republic Simak Sahakian and others, original papers, magazines and fiction published in the Republic.

In a special section devoted to Higher Educational Institutions of the Republic, there are documents about the State University, founded in 1921 and about other high schools, photographs of the first teachers and their personal belongings.

On the base of the institute of Art Criticism the branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR — Armfan, came into being in 1935. Its scientists made a valuable contribution to the Soviet and international science. Cordially welcoming the victory of the October Revolution in Armenia the older generation of Armenian writers H. Tumanian, H. Hovhannisian, A. Isahakian, Shirvanzade, Nar-Dos and others fully devoted themselves to creation and development of Literature of Socialistic Realism. After the talanted representative of Armenian poetry Egishè Charents on the literary pursuits there came forward a glorious pleiad of young writers: A. Bakunts, A. Vshtuni, N. Zarian and others.

The achievements in the Literature are brightly reflected

in the exposition. There are photographs, the books and personal belongings of the writers.

Not less interesting are photographs of the outstanding painters of Armenia: M. Sarian, G. Bashindjaghian, A. Codjoyan, S. Arakelian and others, the architecture A. Tamanian.

The Armenian Theatre with its history of 2000 years had a violent growth only during the years of the Soviet Power. The Yerevan Drama Theatre was opened in 1922 and in 1937 it was named after the distinguished playwright Gabriel Sundukian.

There are represented photographs of the famous actors of theatre and screen: H. Nersesian, A. Avetisian, A. Voskanian, Hasmik, M. Manvelian and others.

The exposition of the Hall VIII is completed with the materials demonstrating achievements of the Republic in Music Artsn. 1923 the State Conservatory after Komitas was founded and the House of Opera and Ballet after Spendiarov in 1932.

In Moscow of October 1939 Armenian Ten-day Literature and Art Festival was opened which brightly demonstrated flourishment of spiritual culture of the Armenian people.

HALL IX

On June 22, 1941, Fascist Germany came upon the Soviet Union. The Great Patriotic War began. In the exposition of this Hall on the first stands one can see the most important resolutions of the Party and the Government during the first days of the war, placards, the copies of papers with notifications of the beginning of the War.

All the peoples of our country started fighting for the freedom and independence of our Socialist State.

The defence of the Brest Fortress came to be the brightest example of patriotism and immortal heroism of the Soviet people. Here side by side with Major P. Gavrilov and other comman-

ders, sons of the Armenian people defended the fortress. Among them were the secretary of the Komsomol organization of the regiment Samuel Matevosian, S. Nuridjanian and others.

A special stand tells about the deeds of Armenian soldiers. Here are photographs of the colonel S. Sarkisian, of the first heroes of the Soviet Union: L. Chapchakchian, P. Gazazian and others.

On a stand devoted to the heroic defence of Moscow are photographs and personal belongings of Armenian soldiers: H. Martirosian, S. Ginosian, H. Shadunts and others.

In the winter of 1941-1942 in Armenia there were formed five Armenian national military units — 89, 408, 409, 390, 261, the history of their formation is shown on special stands of the exposition. One's attention is drawn to the battle banners of the 408th division and to the personal belongings of the courageous commander of the 390th division S. Zakian and other sons of the Armenian people, killed for their Fatherland.

On a stand devoted to the heroic defence of Sevastopol one can see photographs and personal belongings of the rear admiral M. Petrosian, the colonel H. Megrabian and others.

During the blockade and heroic defence of Leningrad sons of the Armenian people set examples of bravery and courage.

Certain documents speak of the twice Hero of the Soviet Union, the pilot Nelson Stepanian, the military doctor S. Lalayan, who distinguished themselves especially. Of a great importance are also photographs and personal belongings of the Admiral of the Fleet I. Isakov, the vice-admiral Z. Arvanov and others, whose names the citizens of Leningrad utter with love. It's necessary to mention the name of a courageous defender of Leninrgad Beniamin Galstian, whom N. Tikhonov writes about in his memoirs.

HALL X

The materials exposed in the Hall X tell us about the liberation of the temporary occupied regions of the Soviet Union and the East Europe from the Nazi invaders by the Soviet Army.

After the defeat near Moscow the fascist hordes occupied the Crimea and rushed towards Stalingrad, where the greatest battle was set up. Our units closed the ring of encirclement of the german army of 330 thousand and on February 2, 1943 finished it by utter crushing. A special stand of the exposition is devoted to these events. Here are exposed photographs of talented Soviet military leaders A. M. Vasilievski, N. N. Voronov, A. I. Eremenko, C. C. Rokosovski, V. I. Chuikov and others. There is the map of encirclement and crushing of fascist — german army. There are on the stands and windows photographs personal belongings and documents of the participants of the Stalingrad Battle, Armenian soldiers — the general A. Karapetian, the Hero-pilot of the Soviet Union S. Burnazian and others.

Nearly 15 months the persistent battles for the Caucase lasted. At the antifascist meeting of the nations of Trans-caucasia in Tbilissi, on August 23, 1942 a speech had the academician Orbeli, the chairman of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Georgia G. Sturua, the poet S. Vurgun and others, who appealed to the people to defend the native land from the enemy.

In the windows of the exposition there are documents, telling about the work of the Party organization of Transcaucasia, newspapers, leaflets and so on.

Passing into attacks on January 3, 1943 the troops ot the Transcaucasian front including 3 Armenian units set Krasnodar free and a number of towns and on October 9, 1943 victoriously completed their fighting for the Caucase.

On the eve of the offensive the Armenian people addressed a letter to sons of the Armenian people calling for fight with the enemy to the last drop of blood. On a stand devoted to the defence

of the Caucase there are photographs of the commanders in chief, the army generals Petrov, Tulenev, Tamruchi and others.

A large illuminated map reflects the fighting road of the 89th armenian Taman division. The luminous dotted line displays the fighting road of the division, that reached Berlin. For the perfect fulfilling of fighting operations the division was granted with Order of the Red Star and the Order of the Red Banner. In the artisticy decorated window of the exposition there are demonstrated personal belongings and photographs of the commander of the Taman division the general Nver Safarian, photographs of the faithful sons of the Armenian people: Hunan Avetisian, who followed A. Matrosov's heroic deed, S. Arakelian, G. Carachanian and others.

With a great interest one can watch the displays, telling about the activities of the Admiral of the Fleet I. Isakov, who commanded the Black See Fleet and played an important role in leading the Naval Forces.

In the sumner of 1943 the Red Army gained a great victory in the region of Kursk. Here their talent of a military man revealed the future Marshal of the Soviet Union H. Bagramian, the Marshal of aviation A. Khanferian (Khudiakov) and others.

23 Armenian soldiers were awarded the title of a Hero of the Soviet Union together with 2000 warriors and commanders for heroism and bravery displayed in battles for towns and villages of the Ukraine.

Among various materials there is a letter and a photo of the senior lieutenant S. Nikoyan fallen in battles for the Ukraine.

Units under the direct command of the general S. Martirosian took part in battles for Kiev on November 6, 1943. In a special window there are exposed documents, photographs, arms, the rewards and the keys of the city of Prague, presented to S. Martirosian.

During the wartime a powerful partisan movement strolled out on the occupied territory of our country. Several stands are

devoted to this theme. The materials tell us about the participance of armenian-patriots in the partisan units of Kovpak and in the detachment named after Mikoyan.

The Soviet people in the rear put the work of civil enterprises on a war footing for a regular supply of the front with armory and ammunition.

A number of new enterprises was put in action in Armenia. Among them were the tire plant, the cable plant, the electric machine — building plant and others, where the production of ammunition was mastered.

The Armenian kolkhozes raised the productivity of agricultural and animal produce. On the stands and in the windows there are photographs, documents of the vice-commissar of Defence Mirzakhanov, of the aircraft designer A. Mikoyan, of the foremost people in agriculture and industry, originals of newspapers and leaflets. Beginning with the autumn of 1943 when the territory of the Soviet Union was entirely liberated, military operations were replaced to the Eastern Europe. By the end of March 1944 our army entered Rumania and, in July — Poland and Chekhoslovakia. In this section of the exposition are represented photographs of the generals A. Babadjanian, S. Karapetian and others who took an active part in the liberation the peoples of Europe from fascism.

In the occupied countries of Europe a big partisan movement was strolled in 1942-1944. In France among the participants of the French resistant movement was the writer Misak Manushian, who was shot by fascists in February 1944 with a group of partisans. Of a great interest are also photographs and materials concerning the activities of Armenian partisans M. Dashtoyan, E. Razgradian, A. Petrosian, G. Kolozian and others. Here in display are photographs of partisans of the First Soviet Armenian partisan regiment in France. In a special window is the banner of the regiment. For the courage and heroism displayed in

battles over 600 partisans of this regiment were awarded by the French government.

The attention of visitors is attracted by the diorama, that tells about the capture of the fortress in the Humbolt-Heim Park (Berlin) by the 89th Taman division.

Various displays tell us about heroic deeds of Soviet warriors. On special places there are photographs of Armenian heroes and generals of the Soviet Union. During the Great Patriotic War about 70 thousand Armenian soldiers were awarded with orders and medals and 104 of them were awarded the title of a Hero of the Soviet Union.

THE CORRIDOR

This exposition represents the history of the post-war restoration of the national economy of the USSR, reflecting the goals of the Fourth Five-Year plan (1946-1950) in Armenia and USSR on the whole. Next to the resolutions of the plenums of the C. C. CPSU there are represented photos of hydropower stations, plants, put into service in the post-war period.

A special stand is devoted to the materials on repatriation of Armenians abroad to the Soviet Armenia.

The Twentieth Congress of the CPSU in 1956 took directives concerning the Sixth Five-Year plan of development the national economy. It was envisaged to increase the gross output of the industry and the production of agricultural goods.

The materials of the exposition tell us about the development of energetic, electrotechnical and chemical industry in Armenia, about the implanting of modern technology, the improvement of welfare and cultural life of the masses in the Republic.

For high indices in the field of agriculture on December 29, 1959 the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic was awarded the Order of Lenin, which is exposed in this section.

On a special stand there are represented the materials of the Extraordinary Twenty-First Congress of the CPSU (1959), which approved the control figures of the Seven-Year Economic Development Plan.

With a great interest visitors watch the stand devoted to the world communist movement. Here are represented the Declaration and the Appeal of the Conference of the representatives of communist and working parties, adopted in Moscow in 1957 and 1960. Next come the materials of the Twenty-Second Congress of the C. P. of Armenia, which approved the schemes of the new Party Rules and the CPSU Program and summerized the achievements in the national economy of the Republic.

The central place of the exposition in this section occupy the materials of the Twenty-Second Congress of the C. P. S. U. (1961) which adopted the new Party Program and planned the ways of communism construction in our state.

The last stands are devoted to the materials which tell about the growth of electric machine-building, chemical industry in the Republic. Here are shown the prospects of various plants, photographs of Heroes of Socialist Labour and enthusiasts of Communist Labour.

HALL XI

The exposition of this Hall has a title «Armenia Today» and is devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Here a light is cast upon the materials, reflecting the main trends of development of the national economy in the Republic during the Seven-Year plan (1959-1965).

The central place is occupied by the map of industry of the Armenian Republic, and on special stands there are specimens of

new production of industry: of chemical plant after Kirov, machine tool plants etc.

On a separate stand are demonstrated photographs of advanced builders of functioning the Yerevan and Kirovakan C. E. H. of Atarbekian and Yerevan Hydro-Power stations of Sevan-Hrazdan cascade.

Of a special interest are the materials of the Twenty-third Congress of CPSU and the Twenty-fourth congress of CP of Armenia.

In a section where it is reflecting the progress in agriculture of the Republic visitors can see the obligation of collective farms, diplomas of Heroes of Socialist Labour, challenge banners, photographs from various branches of agriculture and advanced farmers.

A special place is allotted to the school-education and to Higher schools of the Republic. Founded as far back as 1943 the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian Republic made a certain contribution to the development of scientific thought in Armenia. Here are photographs of the eminent Armenian scientists: V. Hambartsumian, A. Alikhanian, S. Mergelian, E. Cnuniants, N. Sisakian and others.

On decorated stands are photographs of members and corresponding members of Academy of Sciences of Armenia. The Soviet Armenian writers closely connected their activities with the tasks of communist construction. In the exposition are materials of Armenian writers' congresses, photographs of outstanding contemporary Armenian writers.

The following stands are devoted to the Musical Art of the Republic. Here are photoraphs of composers, actors of opera and drama theatres, scenes and play stages, diplomas, personal belongings of Art workers, materials telling about famous painters and sculptors of the Republic, scientific works, materials of scientific-research institutions.

A great deal of displays tell us about the development in sports

in our Republic. Of a special interest is the diploma of the world chess champion Tigran Petrosian, photographs and diplomas of masters of sports, cups of non-professional sport societies.

The final stand of the exhibition «Armenia Today» is devoted to the materials on care of public health in the Republic.

ILLUSTRATION

1. The first edition of «The Manifesto of the Communist Party», in Armenian, 1904.
2. The General View of the Hall I exposition.
3. V. I. Lenin meets S. G. Shahumian in Geneva, 1903». painter A. Mashinian
4. The chess, V. L. Lenin used to play with in Paris, 1908—1910.
5. Kamo's bicycle.
6. «V. I. Lenin and S. Spandarian's meeting in Prague in 1912». Painter J. Avakian
7. «The Great October», mural, painter R. Gargaloyan.
8. The triptych «The May revolt in Armenia». Painter V. Khorenian
9. «V. I. Lenin's greeting telegram to the chairman of the revolutionary committee of Armenia, S. Casian. December 2, 1920». Painter V. Aslanian
10. The study of the first chairman of the Armenian S. N. C., A. Miasnikian.
11. «Members of the Armenian Revolution Committee S. Ter Gabrielian and A. Mravian in V. I. Lenin's study». Painter Sh. Hertevtsian.
12. The Spinning-machine, presented to the workers of Alexandropol by textile workers from town of Vichuga,— the province of Ivano-Vosnesenskaya, 1922.
13. Map «The fighting way of the 89-th Armenian thrice awarded Taman division». work by E. Mikaelian
14. The banner of the first Soviet partisan regiment in France.
15. The order of Lenin and the diploma delivered to the Armenian SSR for the achievements in agriculture. 1958
16. «Armenia Today», bas-relief, chasing, painter R. Sarksian

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